

Annual Report



United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana

1999

Prepared by the Office of the Clerk

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Message from the Clerk . . .

The annual report of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana is an overview of the significant events which have occurred during the 1999 calendar year. This past year has been marked by change as we continue to review our methodology, identify trends, explore new technology and plan for the future. We search for ways to become more efficient in our jobs, but also to assist our customers in becoming more efficient as we preserve the high quality of customer service and justice in the Northern District of Indiana.

The geographic diversity of the Northern District of Indiana with four divisional offices requires constant attention to the areas of communication, attitude and teamwork. Judges and staff put in long hours attending training and conducting meetings in different divisional offices in addition to their everyday workload. We appreciate their dedication and devotion. We constantly search for ways to bring the offices closer through the use of technology. The court makes use of teleconferences, telephone interpreting, NetMeeting software, videoconferencing and even cellular phones to assist us in our duties.

While we and the rest of the judiciary are constantly changing, we need to also be mindful of becoming more efficient and doing more with less. The budget allocated to the judiciary has in recent years not been what we had hoped for. We have made efforts to consolidate our administrative services with our Probation/Pretrial Services staff in order to work more efficiently. The Unit Executives for District, Bankruptcy and Probation/Pretrial Services meet once a month to communicate, plan and share resources.

Our Chief Judge has asked all of us to look for ways to "work smarter rather than harder." We ask every member of our "Federal Family" to become leaders by asking questions about why we are using a particular procedure; make an effort to understand how different systems work so as to coordinate; constantly ask questions about who will benefit and will a particular change be better; and be proactive rather than reactive. Our caseload continues to increase at a higher rate than courts nationwide. However, despite the increases, judges and staff continue to improve in the area of managing cases as evidenced by our Criminal Justice Reform Act statistics. Each year judges and staff take a day out of their normal routine to participate in an Indiana Continuing Legal Education seminar in the different divisional offices in an effort to educate, work with and receive feedback from the various bar associations in our district.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist recently made this observation about our judiciary, "Our judicial experiences in 1999 and throughout the 20th century have confirmed the wisdom of the fundamental structure provided by our government by our founders. It is a system that is capable of adjusting to change without altering its core functions. Although we can no more foresee the technological advances that will come in the 21st century than our predecessors did 100 years ago, we enter the new century with some confidence that the Judiciary can adapt to and utilize those developments based upon our past experiences."

I believe the Northern District of Indiana should be proud that we are meeting the challenges of today and constantly adjusting to change without altering our core functions. I'm also confident

that we have the vision to adapt in the future.

Tribute to Magistrate Judge Robin D. Pierce . . .

A ceremony in memory of the Honorable Robin D. Pierce was held on July 30, 1999. Magistrate Judge Pierce died July 5, 1999 after suffering an injury from a fall at his home.

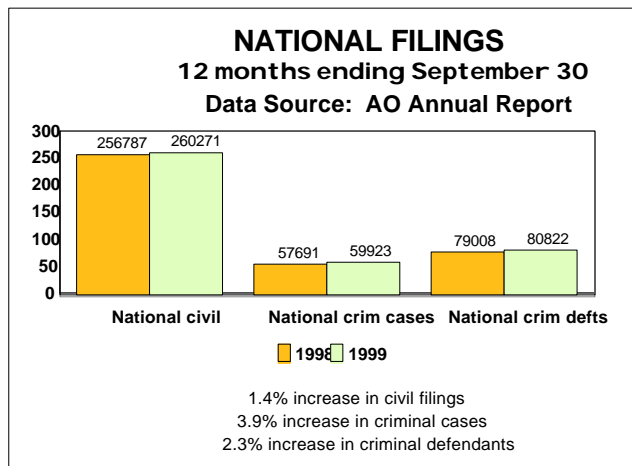
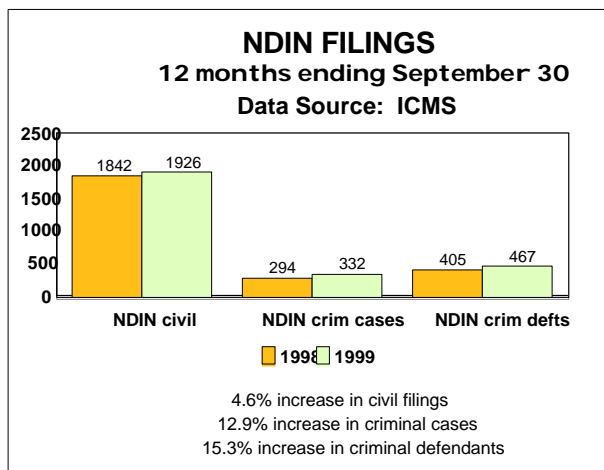
Robin Dane Pierce was admitted to practice law in Indiana and California. He was a law clerk to Judge George B. Hoffman, Jr. of the Indiana Court of Appeals from 1973 to 1976. He was engaged in private practice in Valparaiso and Merrillville, Indiana from 1976 to 1985 at Spangler, Jennings and Dougherty. On August 1, 1985, he was appointed as a part-time Magistrate Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. He was appointed full-time Magistrate Judge on December 19, 1989 and reappointed on December 19, 1997.

The second floor courtroom in South Bend was dedicated to Magistrate Judge Pierce and a portrait of him was unveiled by his family that will hang in the courtroom.

His memory will live on in the hearts of the members of his “federal family”.

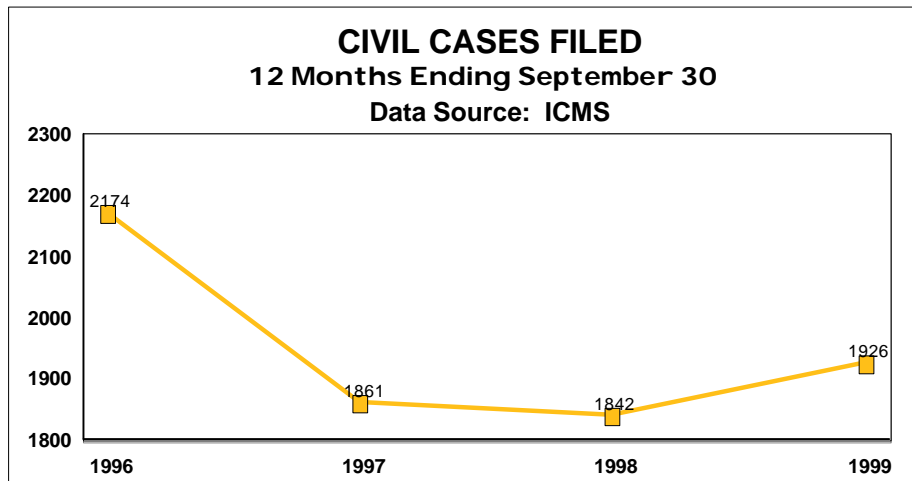
Statistical Information . . .

In fiscal 1999 (October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999) district courts nationwide experienced growth in both civil and criminal filings. In the Northern District of Indiana, we saw even higher rates of filings. Civil filings in our district increased by 4.6%, criminal cases increased by 12.9% and criminal defendants increased by 15.3%, while courts nationwide had much smaller percentages of increase in filings (civil filings-1.4%; criminal cases-3.9%; criminal defendants-2.3%).

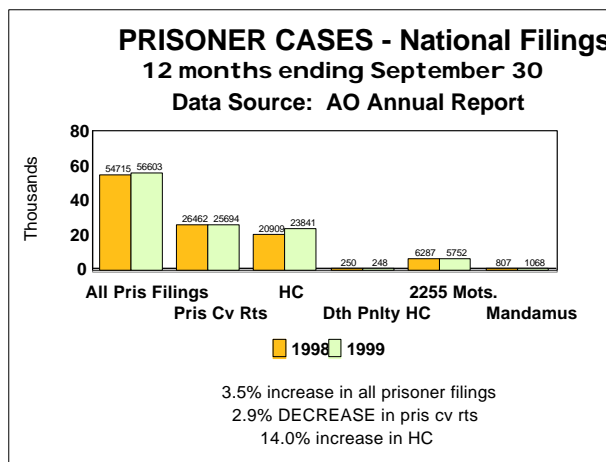
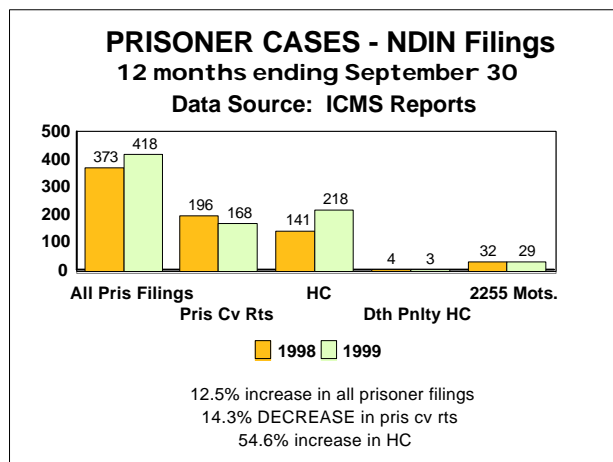


Civil

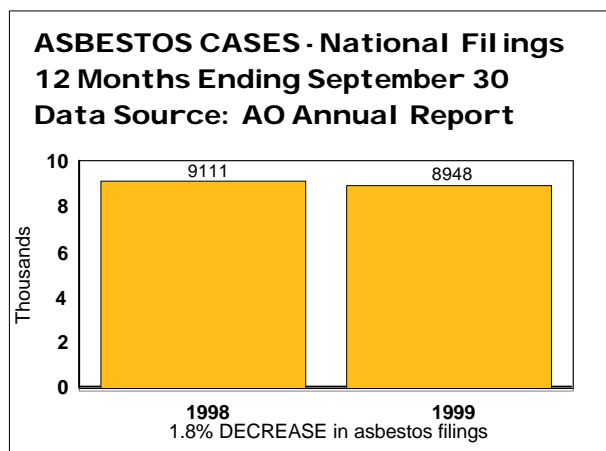
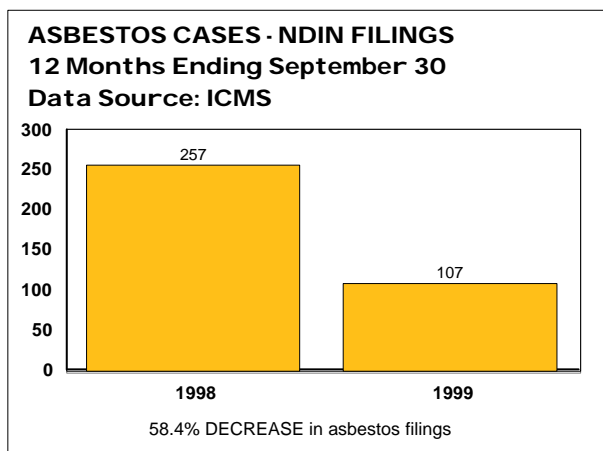
Our civil filings increased more than three times the national average from 1998 to 1999 (4.6% vs. 1.4%). It appears the decrease in filings we experienced for the past several years has been reversed and the number of civil cases filed is now on the rise again:



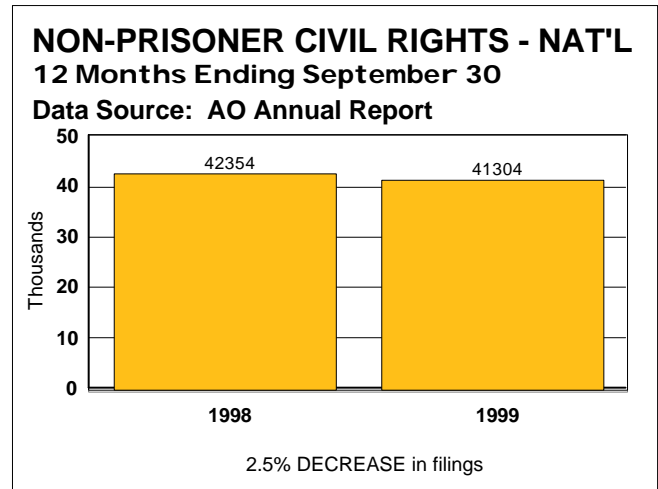
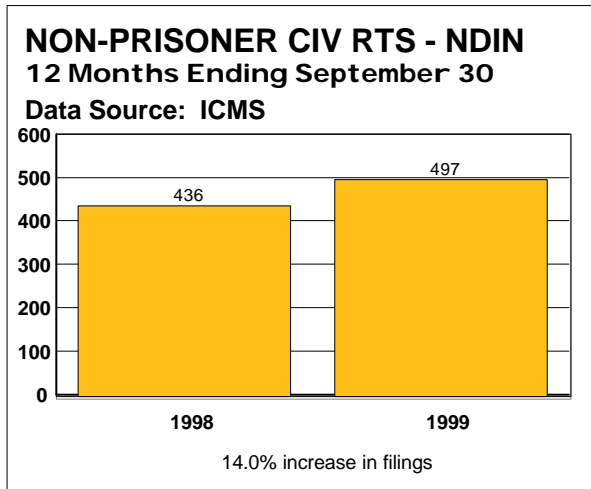
Part of the increase in civil filings is accounted for in prisoner filings, which have started rising again, after a drop for several years as a result of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA). Although we continue to see a decrease in prisoner civil rights filings (-14.3%) as a result of the PLRA, a 54.6% increase in habeas corpus filings more than offsets the decline in civil rights cases, resulting in a 12.5% increase in prisoner filings overall.



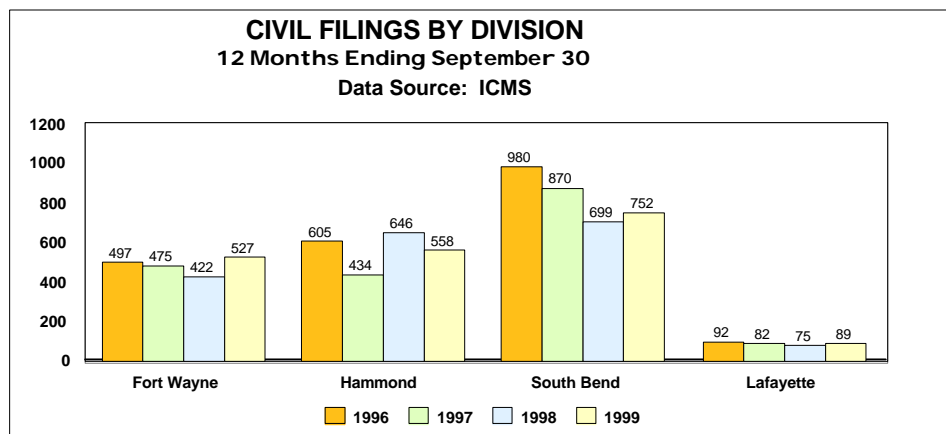
We have seen significant filings in recent years in asbestos personal injury cases. However, in fiscal year 1999 we experienced a decrease in filings of -58.4%, while courts nationwide saw a decrease of only 1.8%:



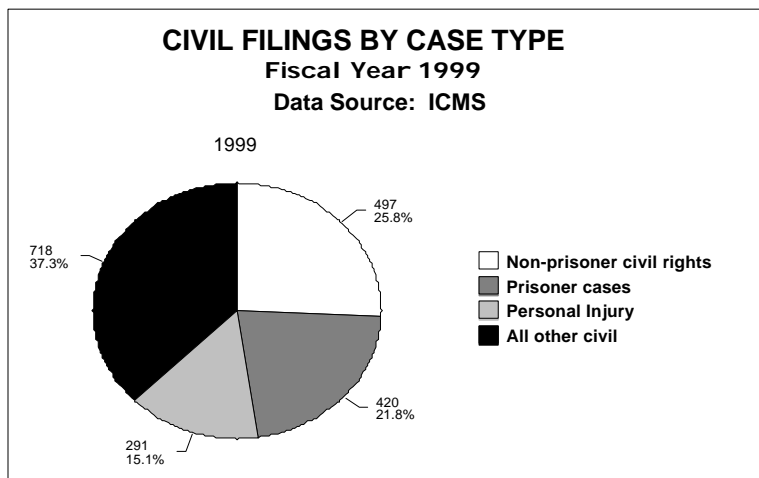
An area where our district has seen steady growth in filings is non-prisoner civil rights cases, which increased by 14.0%, while nationwide filings of these cases decreased slightly (2.5%). Examples of cases that are included in this category are voting, employment, housing/accommodations, welfare and other civil rights.



The number of civil filings for each division for the past four years is shown on the following chart. Three of the four divisions experienced an increase in fiscal 1999 from fiscal 1998.

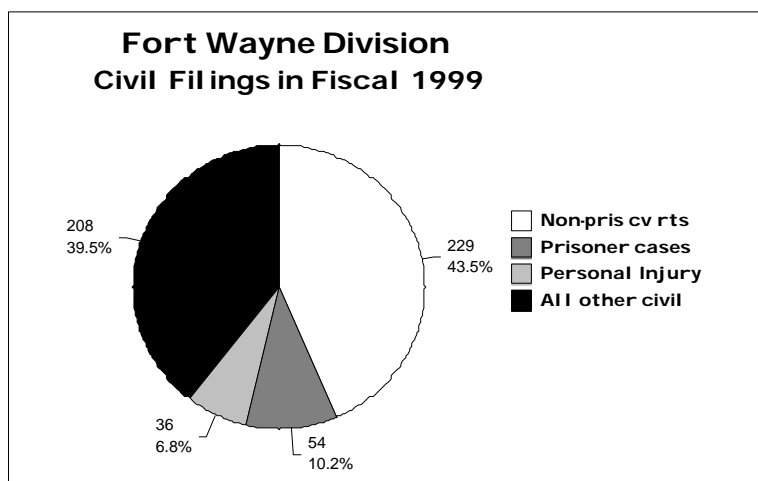


In assessing civil filings by case type for the entire district, non-prisoner civil rights represented the largest percentage of civil cases filed (25.8%), followed by prisoner filings (21.8%) and personal injury (15.1% - includes asbestos cases).

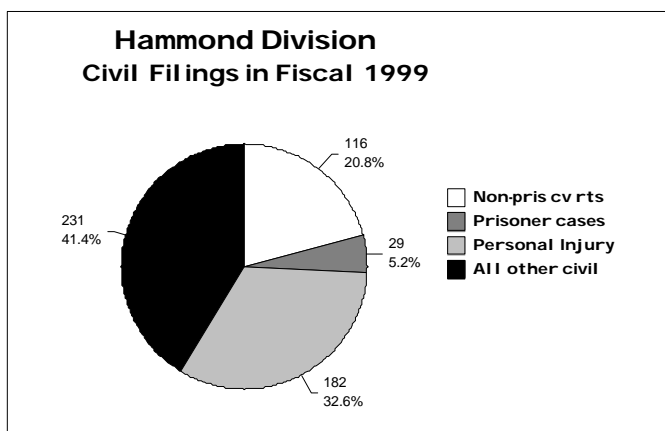


Looking at these same types of cases by division, the mix of civil cases varies with each division.

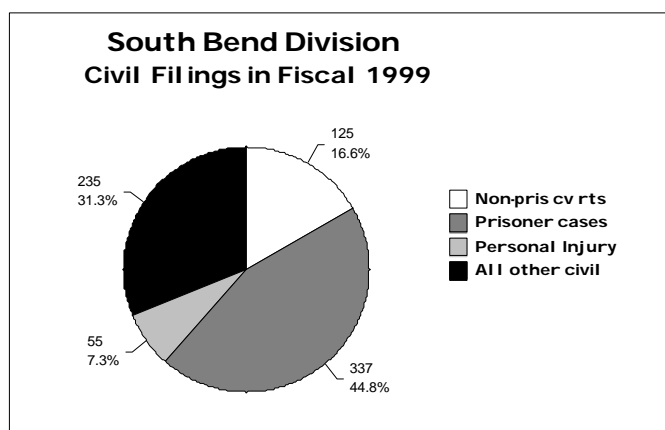
The two categories of civil cases most frequently filed in Fort Wayne are non-prisoner civil rights (43.5%) and other civil (39.5%), comprising 83% of total civil filings in Fort Wayne.



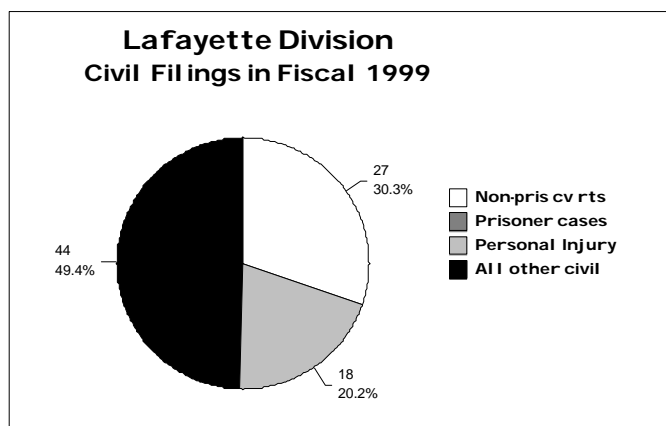
In the Hammond division, the two categories of cases most frequently filed were other civil (41.4%) and personal injury (32.6%), comprising 74% of total civil filings in Hammond. Included in personal injury filings are asbestos cases, the bulk of which were filed in the Hammond division (88%).



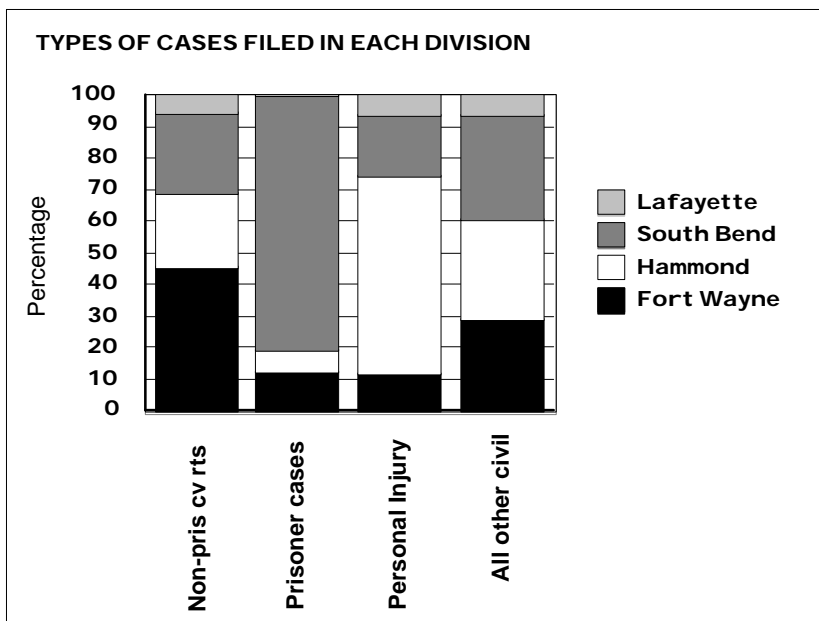
In the South Bend division, prisoner cases continue to comprise the largest category of civil filings (44.8%), with other civil as the second most common case type (31.3%). Together, prisoner cases and other civil comprise 76.1% of South Bend's civil filings.



In the Lafayette division, the two most common types of civil filings are other civil (49.4%) and non-prisoner civil rights (30.3%), comprising 79.7% of total civil filings.

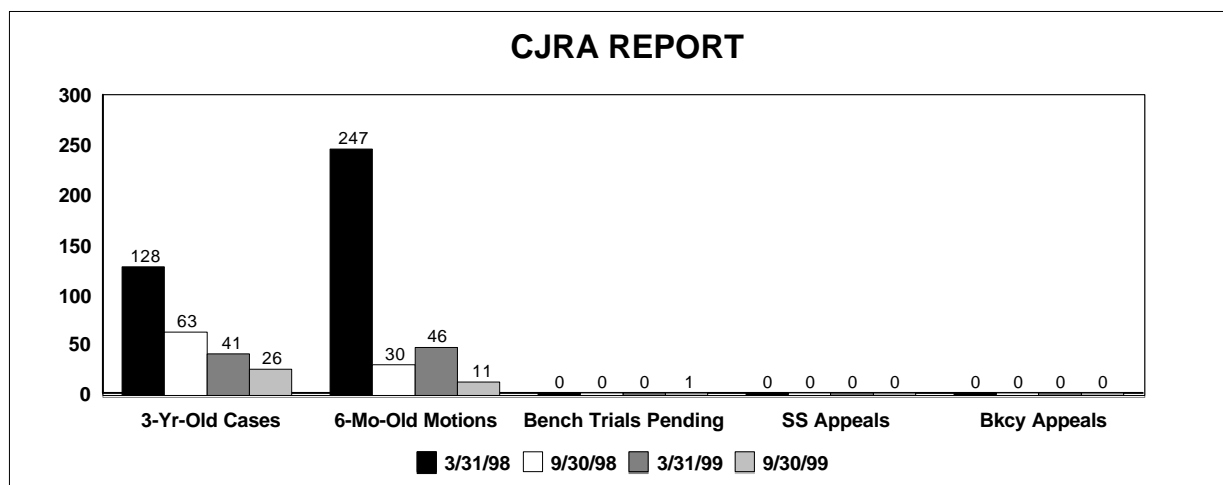


District-wide, the Fort Wayne office had the highest number of non-prisoner civil rights cases (229; 46.1%), the South Bend office had the highest number of prisoner cases (337; 80.2%) and the Hammond office had the highest number of personal injury cases (182; 62.5%) The number of other civil cases filed was nearly equally divided among Fort Wayne, Hammond and South Bend. (Fort Wayne = 208 or 29% - Hammond= 231 or 32.2% - South Bend= 235 or 32.7%) .



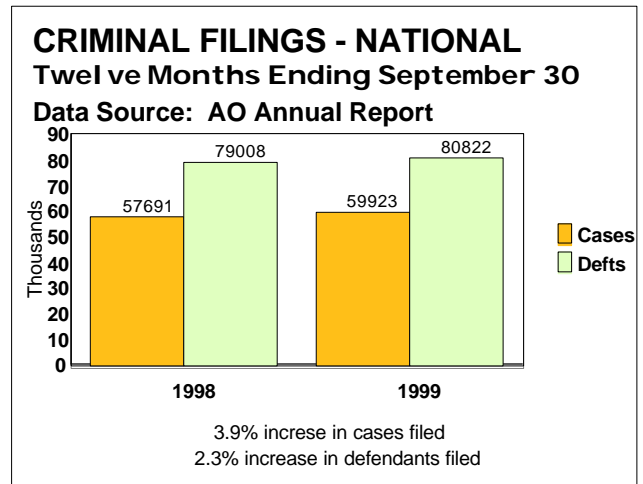
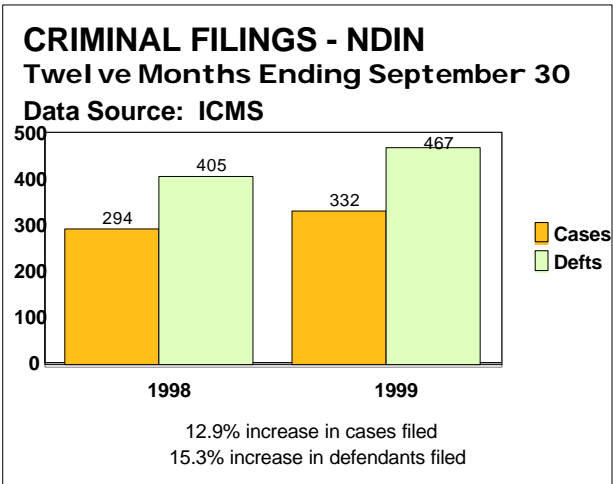
Civil Justice Reform Act

The Civil Justice Reform Act requires status reports from all judicial officers twice each year regarding pending 3-year-old civil cases, 6-month-old motions, bench trials under advisement, bankruptcy appeals and social security appeals. Since implementing the automated program mandated by the Judicial Conference, we have accomplished significant reductions in the number of matters pending on our district's CJRA report.

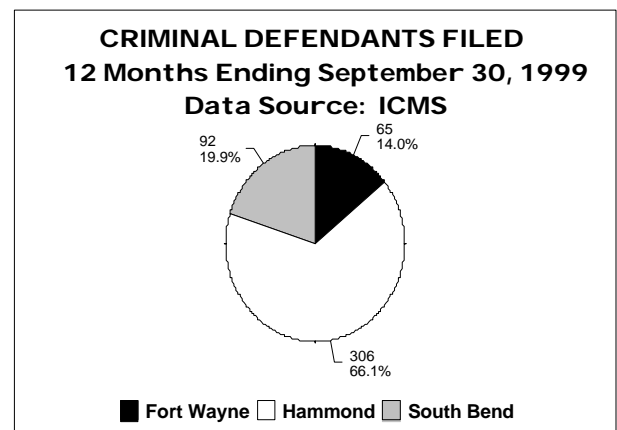
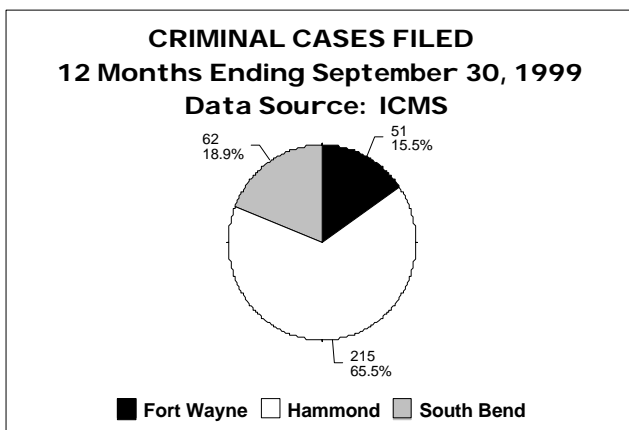


Criminal

Criminal cases increased 12.9% and defendants increased 15.3% in the Northern District of Indiana from 1998 to 1999. This compares with increases of 3.9% and 2.3% in these areas nationwide.

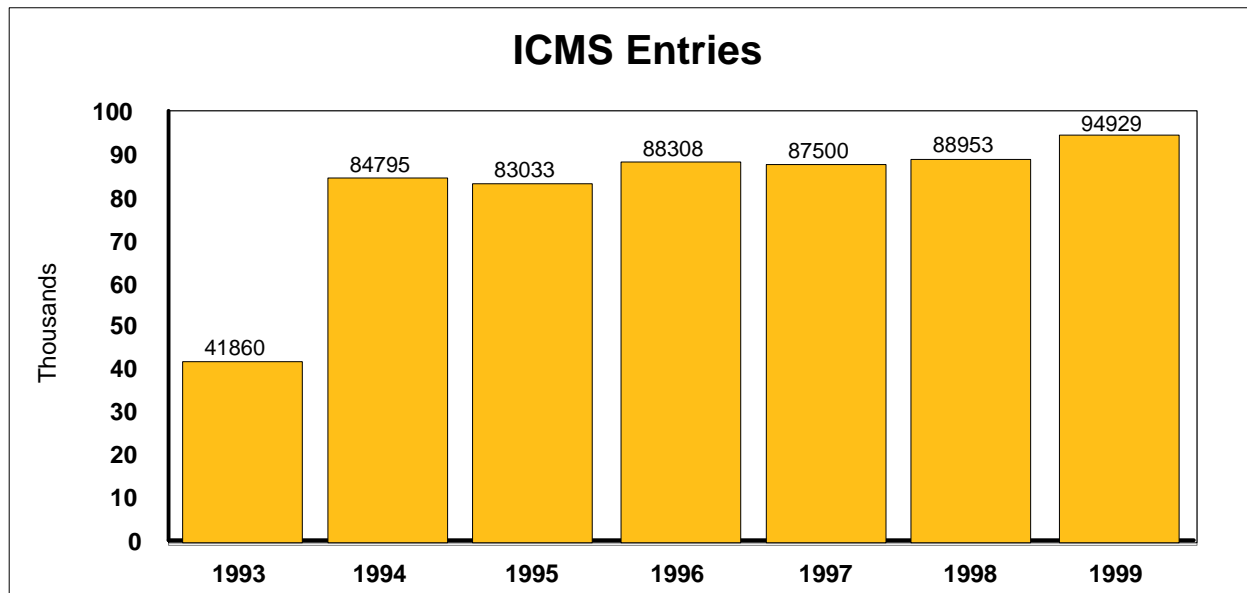


Although total criminal filings have increased, distribution of criminal filings among Fort Wayne, Hammond and South Bend divisions has remained relatively constant. As we have seen in past years, the greatest number of criminal filings in fiscal 1999 occurred again in the Hammond division. The Hammond division received 65.5% of all criminal cases and 66.1% of defendants in 1999, both up slightly from fiscal 1998. In Fort Wayne, criminal filings comprised 15.5% of all criminal cases and 14.0% of defendants, both down slightly from fiscal 1998. In South Bend, criminal cases accounted for 18.9% of all criminal cases and 19.9% of defendants, both up slightly from fiscal 1998.



Integrated Case Management System

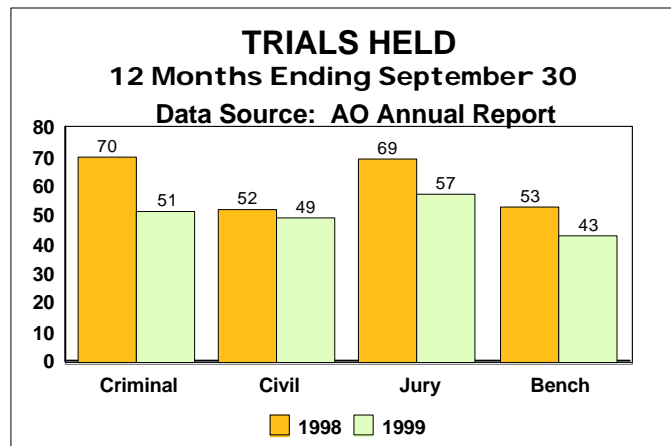
The court's automated docketing system, ICMS, was implemented in 1992 for civil cases and in 1994 for criminal cases. Since that time, 569,378 docket entries have been made in the system:



Trials

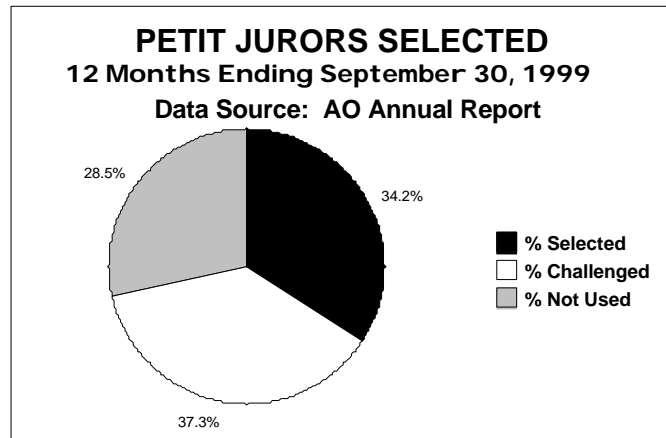
The number of total trials (jury and bench) during fiscal 1999 decreased 18% from fiscal 1998. The percentage of civil vs. criminal trials changed slightly from fiscal 1998 to fiscal 1999, with the percent of civil trials increasing slightly (from 42.6% to 49%) and criminal trials decreasing slightly (from 57.4% to 51%). Nationwide, criminal trials comprised 43.1% of total trials and civil accounted for 56.9% of all trials.

The percentage of jury vs. bench trials remained virtually unchanged from fiscal 1998 to fiscal 1999. The percentage of jury trials increased slightly from 56.6% in 1998 to 57% in 1999. The percentage of bench/other trials decreased from 43.4% to 43%.



Jurors

During fiscal 1999 2,260 prospective petit jurors appeared for selection in our district and 73 juries were selected, a slight decrease in activity from fiscal 1998 (2,396 jurors and 79 juries selected). Of the jurors who appeared for selection, 34.2% were selected to serve on a jury, 37.3% were challenged and 28.5% were not used. Several years ago, the Judicial Conference set a goal of 30% or lower for unused jurors and our court has once again met that goal.



During fiscal 1999 there were 5 grand juries serving our district. These grand juries held 64 sessions and spent a total of 393 hours in session, an increase in activity from fiscal 1998 (6 grand juries, 52 sessions and 304 hours). The average number of grand jurors per session was 20.9 and the average length of a session was 6.1 hours, about the same as fiscal 1998 (20.3 jurors and 5.8 hours per session).

| GRAND JUROR ACTIVITY | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | # Grand Juries | # Sessions Convened | Total Hours in Session | Average # Jurors per Session | Average # Hours per Session |
| FY 1998 | 6 | 52 | 304 | 20.3 | 5.8 |
| FY 1999 | 5 | 64 | 393 | 20.9 | 6.1 |
| % Change | -16.7% | 23.1% | 29.3% | 3.0% | 5.2% |

Personnel . . .



Many changes in personnel have occurred during the past year. In chambers a number of law clerks finished their two year term of service with the court and a number of new law clerks joined us. The following is a list of those who completed their term: Brett Cagan, Beth Donahue, Alison Gibbs Fox, Fred Jonassen, Brian Spang, Elizabeth Wiet Reutter and Sheri Potts. In addition, Nicole Byrd resigned her position with the court in July to work in the U.S. District Court in Chicago. Deborah Domine left the Magistrate Chamber in South Bend in September. Sue Shead, long-time secretary to the Hon. Robert L. Miller, passed the bar and became a law clerk for Judge Miller in March, 1999. Mary Lou Solomon transferred from the chambers of the Hon. Kenneth F. Ripple to the Bankruptcy Court.

We welcomed the following new law clerks: Abigail Clapp, Debra Colby, Susan Johnson, Dean Lanter, Heather McShain, Jason Paupore, and Mick Tuesley.

Changes also took place in the Clerk's Office during 1999. Tammy Vandervort, court reporter with the Hon. Allen Sharp, resigned. We were pleased to welcome Loretta Spromberg to fill this position. Priscilla Skillicorn left the District Court and joined the Bankruptcy Court as Training Coordinator. The Clerk's Office hired temporary personnel in both South Bend and Fort Wayne and hired Elizabeth Barron as a temporary in Hammond. Mary Kerkman gave birth to a baby girl, Kailey Emma, in December 1999 and Violet Wurtsbaugh retired for a second time in December 1999.

The Clerk's Office also had student interns assisting in 1999. These students earn college credit toward their degrees and also are a very welcome addition to the Clerk's Office. Elizabeth Barron served as an intern in Hammond before joining the staff as a temporary. Anthony VanEs served as an intern in the South Bend office.

Operations . . .

This year has been filled with new and innovative challenges and changes facing the operations section of our court. Funding and staffing cuts have resulted in having to “do more with less” and our staff pulled together as a team to accomplish the court’s goals and objectives. They have proven once again that diligence and determination are the cornerstones to success. Their efforts are a key factor in our being recognized as one of the leading courts in the nation.

Some of the highlights during this past year include the following:

Administrative Office Work Study Measurement Group:

The Northern District of Indiana was one of the courts involved in this AO study. A select group of staff from various courts comprised the working team to visit randomly selected courts to review each and every task undertaken by a clerk’s office. The result will be a new staffing formula being presented to the Judicial Conference Committee in June of 2000 and is expected to be used for staffing allocations in fiscal 2001.

Performance Evaluation Forms for Docketing and Courtroom Deputies and Division Managers:

A district-wide performance appraisal system is in the final stages of development after numerous hours of time and effort by all clerk’s office personnel, and will be implemented in early 2000. We are proud of the results and believe it will be a fair and effective tool in the ongoing performance process.

Employee Recognition Program:

A formal Employee Recognition Program has been adopted for the clerk’s office personnel with the approval of the Court. The program is designed to recognize outstanding achievement and exceptional performance, promote employee satisfaction and commitment, encourage innovative thinking among individuals and groups, and to promote involvement in philanthropic activities.

Brainstorming:

The “brainstorming” sessions continued to be held by the Clerk and Chief Deputy throughout the district. These sessions continue to be beneficial to everyone in the court by addressing issues dealing with policy and procedures and other key concerns important to the operation of the court.

Procedural Manuals:

Procedural manuals have become another important tool for our court. Each manual is written and developed by a committee comprised of staff and supervisory staff from each divisional office along with the chief deputy. The Civil and Jury Manuals have been completed and approved.

Jury Projects:

Regarding jury in 1999, the master jury wheel was refilled, all jury staff participated in the Juror Management System (JMS) training held in the Hammond Division, the amount of mailings to jurors were reduced by creating in-house a self-mailing summons, and the automation staff created customized reports for our judges.

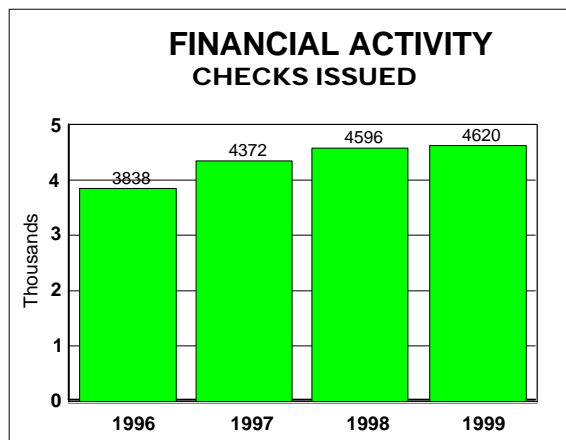
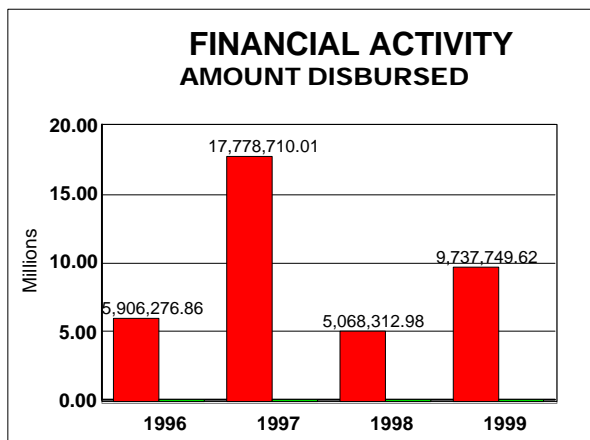
Finance, Budget and Procurement . . .



The Financial, Budget and Procurement sections were extremely busy during fiscal year 1999. We were one of the ten courts selected to be an early implementation court for the FAS₄T project. FAS₄T stands for Financial Accounting Systems for Tomorrow. Since our court was chosen we have had to review our vendor files to include information vital to the implementation phase of the new financial system. May 1, 2000 has been selected as our implementation date. We are excited because the new system will streamline many of the functions that we currently perform manually and will enable our financial office greater flexibility and eventually speed with regard to processing our financial transactions and reporting requirements.. After a trial period we should no longer have to keep manual ledgers in order properly track expenditures and eventually we hope to move toward a more “paperless” court.

In September, Financial staff attended training in San Antonio, Texas for the new CJA payment system. The new program replaces the manual voucher form with a computer generated form which can be used by the Administrative Office to track the various types of expenditures under the Criminal Justice Act. We are in the process of training the Case Management Deputies on the new CJA system. Staff also attended Financial Accounting System for Tomorrow (FAS₄T) Project Management Training in Washington, D.C. in May.

Some of the major projects in procurement included the purchase and installation of new Pointmaker Software for the courtroom technology equipment in South Bend and Fort Wayne, design and installation of custom wood furnishings to accommodate courtroom technology in the third floor courtroom in South Bend, and the Furniture Acquisition Plan Furniture and Furnishings purchases for the new Hammond courthouse.



Automation and Technology . . .

In the past year, the Northern District of Indiana has made great progress in information resources management and technology. Because of the continued growth and greater reliance on the District's information systems, our systems staff have remained busy. In an effort to handle the burgeoning demands of automation the District Court and the United States Probation and Pretrial Services formally consolidated automation staff in March 1999. By creating one department for the two court units it reduces duplication of training, procurement, and space and facility utilization. Issues have been addressed in a more efficient manner by pooling resources of the departments into one court-wide unit. After the consolidation with Probation and Pretrial Services the automation staff has grown from two in 1993 to six in 1999, reflecting the increased demand of technology in the workplace.

To respond to the increased workload changes the automation staff initiated several major projects in 1999. The Mandatory Victims Restitution Act of 1996 required that the District Court Clerk's office receipt restitution. The solution to the additional tracking requirements was to implement American Management Systems' (AMS) cash register program with receipt writing and case account ledger capabilities. The system's ability to track partial payments via ledgering has greatly reduced the financial office's work necessary to monitor each account. Multiple funds can be setup for each defendant and an account weight can be assigned to each fund to ensure they are paid in proper order. Since implementing the system District wide representatives of our automation and financial staff visited Nebraska and San Francisco to assist in implementation.

The system's staff was also kept busy doing cyclical replacement of computers. In 1999 we upgraded the network infrastructure in all four divisions, replaced 61 desktop computers and four network servers district wide. There are now 155 desktops computers and laptops being used throughout the District.

In an effort to help facilitate calendaring throughout the district, we phased out obsolescent calendaring software. The new calendaring software selected was Lotus Notes. You can create an appointment, invitation, event, reminder, anniversary or holiday in your personal calendar. Scheduling an appointment is as simple as entering the date, time and description of the appointment. Probation has also adopted the software and has found it very useful in tracking clients in the drug after care program. Within the security confines of the system, Notes even supports a group calendar view so you can see multiple colleagues' free times at a glance.

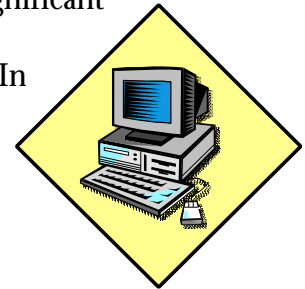
The courtrooms were not exempt from the technological onslaught. As a reflection of the world of automation, information technology is used to accelerate and enhance the effectiveness of communication in the courtroom between litigants, the bar and the public. The third floor courtroom in South Bend and the second floor courtroom in Fort Wayne are equipped with automated evidence presentation systems. By adopting these strategic initiatives aimed at reducing reliance on paper and achieving economies in its way of doing business, the quality and efficiency of courtroom proceedings have increased.

Video conferencing and satellite training also came to fruition in the District. The Federal

Judicial Television Network (FJTN) allows the judiciary to broadcast educational and informational programming from a broadcast studio in Washington, D.C. The Administrative Office, Federal Judicial Center and Sentencing Commission have undertaken a broad distance learning initiative to provide a variety of programming for this relatively new network. There are currently approximately 250 court downlink sites participating, making the FJTN the civilian federal government's second largest private broadcasting network. Implementation of videoconferencing for civil rights pretrial hearings and other applications has facilitated court proceedings.

In 1999, the Northern District of Indiana developed an intranet site. The intranet site allows electronic publication of court information as well as providing valuable links to other judiciary web sites. Along with the intranet site, we also have published an internet site. Opposed to the intranet site which is available only to judiciary employees, the internet site is available to the public. Information about the divisional offices, local procedures, PACER and job opportunities are available at www.innd.uscourts.gov.

The growing role of information technology in the courts has put increased pressure on staff to become more technologically savvy. The people factor may be more significant than many realize and may be the limiting factor in determining how completely and how quickly new technology can be effectively deployed. In the future the courts will see an increasing array of tools to help manage the case load. Electronic case filing, document management systems, electronic libraries to enhance access to research tools and databases will become ubiquitous tools for case management.



Training . . .

In 1999, training continued to be a decisive component for our court. Training has enabled our court to grow in all areas—operations, technology and professional development. A district wide-training committee comprised of Bankruptcy, Probation and District Court was established. The committee meets regularly to plan and develop training programs in order to provide the best training for our district by pooling our resources.

Training has and will continue to be an integral component of our court's design and future. Our goal is to continue to provide all court personnel with the necessary skills for them to develop and to continue to provide the excellent customer service which is expected of our court. In terms of locally provided formal training, over 170 personnel received formal training in 1999, resulting in 2,000 hours of instruction. These programs were primarily planned, coordinated and provided by local court staff. Some of the highlights of our training programs this past year are as follows:

ICMS PowerPoint Sessions:

This program allowed docket and case management clerks an opportunity to not only participate but facilitate refresher ICMS training. Through the use of NetMeeting software and telephone conferencing all divisional offices were able to participate in bi-monthly ICMS presentations facilitated by deputy clerks.

Court of Appeals Seminar:

Docketing deputies from each divisional office, accompanied by a division manager, spent 1 ½ days at the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and met with their staff to review procedures for processing appeals that benefitted both the Court of Appeals and our court.

Civil Violations Bureau Seminar:

Our magistrate judges' case management deputies and the chief deputy attended a two-day joint training program with the Southern District of Indiana in Indianapolis. The seminar was presented by the Administrative Office and discussed the revisions made by the CVB especially in the area of automation and how these changes have benefitted the courts in keeping accurate statistical records of case filings.

Statistical Training Seminar:

The Administrative Analyst and Hammond Division Manager attended a two day statistical training seminar in Washington, D. C. offered by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. This program focused on the importance of accurate statistical records of case filings and closings to ensure proper staffing and funding for our district.

Frontline Leadership and Working Programs:

The second phase of the Zenger-Miller program for supervisory personnel was offered to supervisory staff from Probation, Bankruptcy and District Court to improve their interpersonal skills. In addition, the Working program for non-supervisory personnel has been completed in our district. We hold the record for the largest number of non-supervisory staff to participate in all 14 modules of the Working program. We view the skills from Frontline and Working modules as key components to our court and have incorporated them into our performance appraisal system for all clerk's office personnel.

The FJTN Broadcast Network:

FJTN broadcasts have provided numerous training hours for all court staff to view either live or at their convenience from our large videotape library. These programs offer a myriad of topics ranging from personnel issues such as *Maximizing Tax Savings through the Use of TSP*, *Basic Browser Usage* to *Electronic Case Filing (ECF) from the Deputy Clerk's Perspective*. The public, and in particular the Bar Association, has benefitted from the FJTN broadcast programs. The Supreme Court in Review presentation was offered to the Allen County Bar Association in Fort Wayne.

Offsite Training:

Several court personnel attended off-site non-FJC sponsored seminars such as *How to Handle Difficult People* and *How to Get Organized and Get it All Done*. Attendees received administrative leave and their tuition was paid by the court. They were then asked to share what they learned with other court staff.



Jury Management System (JMS) Seminar:

The Hammond division hosted this training in March. JMS is the automated jury program which has been adopted by the Administrative Office. Our district was one of the first pilot courts in the nation using this system. Our Automation staff was instrumental in customizing this program to fit the needs of the federal courts. In addition, our court has hosted JMS training programs for the districts of Illinois Central and Illinois Southern. A representative from our Systems staff traveled to Indiana Southern and New York Northern to assist in the implementation of JMS.

Case Management Training:

All courtroom deputies and division managers met to discuss their duties and find ways to “work smarter, not harder.” A presentation on the use of the Evidence Presentation System and videoconferencing were demonstrated by our Fort Wayne and South Bend courtroom deputy clerks.

Hiring the Right Person Seminar:

This Federal Judicial Center (FJC) sponsored training program was offered to all District, Bankruptcy and Probation staff who are involved in the hiring process with their court unit. Participants learned effective interviewing skills and techniques to enable them to select the best candidates for employment.

Miscellaneous Training:

Several members of our court personnel traveled to other districts to provide training in the areas of jury, financial, work measurement studies, revised Administrative Office travel regulations, the employee dispute resolution plan adopted by our district, and ways to deal with change.

Manuals:

Procedural manuals have become another important training tool for our court. Each manual is written and developed by a committee comprised of staff and supervisors from each divisional office and the chief deputy. Currently, the civil and jury manuals have been completed and approved and the Pro Se manual is awaiting approval. The criminal manual is scheduled to be completed in 2000.

Special Events and Projects . . .

The Northern District of Indiana has been involved in numerous special events and projects this past year. Many of these special events involve the public and our local communities. The list of these exceptional projects held throughout the district is lengthy, but the following are just the highlights of this last year's endeavors.

Supreme Court in Review Presentation in Fort Wayne:

ICLEF granted attorneys in the Fort Wayne area an opportunity to gain two credit hours by attending a training session in our Fort Wayne Division. This Federal Judicial Television Network (FJTN) program was aired in the courtroom in Fort Wayne and Chief Judge William C. Lee and Magistrate Judge Roger Cosbey hosted a working lunch seminar where attorneys viewed this program about the cases decided by the Supreme Court in 1998 and 1999. A question and answer period followed the presentation. This was very favorably received by the bar in Fort Wayne and other programs of interest will be offered to the bar in this format in the future.



Continuing Education:

Our district court presented the program "Federal Civil Practice for the Northern District," on April 21, 1999, as part of the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum (ICLEF). The faculty for this program included our district judges, our magistrate judges, our clerk and various attorneys.

Law Day:

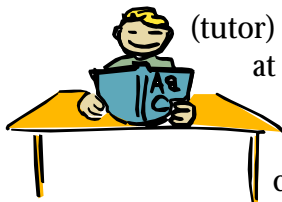
Our court participated in a Law Day Celebration on April 27, 1999, a program entitled, "Celebrate Your Freedom: The Importance of Jury Services to an Independent Judicial System" was presented for the first time. This program was televised on the FJTN and provided high school seniors with a positive experience with jury service in the federal courts by allowing them to witness a mock jury trial of a federal case.

Career Day Programs:

The Hammond division participated in a Public and Not-For-Profit Service Career Day offered by Indiana University Northwest. This presentation offered their students the opportunity to identify the diverse positions in the public and not-for-profit service.

School Study Connection:

The Fort Wayne division is proud to be affiliated with the Fort Wayne Community School Study Connection Program. First to fifth grade school students are assigned to an employee (tutor) for one hour of homework help one day a week. A school bus drops the children at the door of the Federal Building and picks them up one hour later. This special attention strengthens the students' math, reading, writing, and problem solving skills. The Fort Wayne Division has participated in this program for two consecutive school years.



School Tours:

The court has become a wonderful training tool for local schools. We have had students of all ages and from many different community and parochial schools come to the courthouse to learn about the various agencies within the building and to view the naturalization ceremony. The students are always provided interesting information from many staff members willing to speak to them. We have had representatives from the Marshal Service, division managers, U.S. Attorneys, a number of our judges, Probation staff and Task Force members. The students are also interested in the various countries represented by the new citizens and the steps that they have to take to become citizens of the United States. A number of our visiting school groups have prepared flags that are presented to the new citizens at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Ethnic Festival and Global Festival Naturalization Ceremonies:

For several years a large naturalization ceremony has launched the South Bend Ethnic Festival. The festival is an outside event that lasts four days and is held the last weekend in June. Naturalization ceremonies are also held at the Global Festival in the Lafayette division. This festival is held during the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Community Outreach Events:

Some activities that were held this year which reached out into the communities included food drives in some divisions, a children's Christmas party in Hammond and the United Way Federal Campaign luncheon in Hammond.

Internship Program:

This is a program which allows students attending local colleges the opportunity to volunteer in the court and earn college credit toward their degrees. The students are assigned to work in the Clerk's Office and are given opportunities to see how the court operates by spending time with the courtroom deputies, sitting in on court sessions, and spending time with other agencies in the building.

